

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5998

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 6207

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS JA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK

1. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS THIS MORNING (SEPTEMBER 18) I MET PRIVATELY WITH PRESIDENT PARK FOR ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES. WHILE PART OF THE CONVERSATION DEALT WITH GENERALITIES AND PLEASANTRIES, A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS EMERGED.

2. AFTER I HAD OPENED CONVERSATION BY REITERATING BOTH PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON ASSASSINATION OF MRS. PARK AND ASSURANCES OF CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN POLICY AND AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TO KOREA, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE OF US FORCES HERE, PRESIDENT PARK EXPRESSED WARM GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR REAFFIRMATION OF US COMMITMENTS AND POLICY TO KOREA. HE SAID THAT, WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THERE WAS CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESS CRITICISM OF KOREA, HIS BASIC CONCERN IS WITH THE VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HE HAD BEEN REASSURED BY THE MESSAGE SENT TO HIM. HE VIEWS US-ROK RELATIONS AS ON VERY GOOD BASIS AT THE

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PRESENT TIME WITH NO REPEAT NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

IT IS HIS HOPE AND DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.

3. I THEN TURNED TO CURRENT ROK-GOJ DISPUTE, URGING FINAL STEPS TOWARDS AMICABLE SETTLEMENT BE TAKEN TODAY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. PRESIDENT PARK WAS CONFIDENT CURRENT DISPUTE COULD BE SETTLED QUICKLY AND WAS WARMLY APPRECIATIVE OF US EFFORTS WITH JAPAN IN BRINGING ABOUT BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT. HE RECOGNIZED US HAD PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN PERSUADING JAPAN TO COMPROMISE ON ITS ORIGINAL POSITION. (DURING CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO DCM FOR HIS EFFORTS.)

4. PRESIDENT PARK STRESSED THAT HIS FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN WAS NOT WITH THE PARTICULAR LANGUAGE OF THE JAPANESE STATEMENTS BUT JAPANESE SINCERITY AND CAPABILITY FOR EXERCISING GREATER CONTROL OVER THE CHOSEN SOREN AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE LEFTWARD TREND IN JAPAN OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL, AND THE POTENTIAL DANGER TO ROK SHOULD THE LEFT TAKE OVER THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND TURN TO A NEUTRALIST OR A PRO-COMMUNIST POLICY. HE FELT THAT GOJ NEEDED STRONGER WILL TO CONTROL RADICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN JAPAN.

5. I TOLD PRESIDENT PARK THAT SUCH A SHIFT IN JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD EQUALLY CONCERN US AND IT THEREFORE IN US-ROK MUTUAL INTEREST TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN JAPAN WHO HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY TO BOTH OF US. I OFFERED TO DESCRIBE AT GREATER LENGTH OUR POLICY TOWARD JAPAN AND PRESIDENT PARK INVITED ME TO COME IN FOR A PRIVATE CHAT WITH HIM FOLLOWING SCM MEETING IN HONOLULU NEXT WEEK.

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